

By: Strama, Anchia

H.B. No. 516

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 516:

By: Strama

C.S.H.B. No. 516

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment and funding of a green job skills training program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 481.078, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (1) to read as follows:

(1) The fund may be used to make one or more grants to the Texas Workforce Commission to implement the commission's powers and duties relating to a green job skills training program. Subsections (e-1), (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) do not apply to a grant under this subsection.

SECTION 2. Subtitle F, Title 4, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 490D to read as follows:

CHAPTER 490D. GREEN JOB SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FUND AND TRAINING PROGRAM

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 490D.001. PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to:

(1) promote green industry employment opportunities, including through the establishment of training programs to enhance green job skills and create career opportunities that result in high-wage jobs;

(2) foster regional collaboration for the development of green industry employment opportunities;

(3) assist in the development of a highly skilled,

1 high-wage, and productive workforce in the green industry; and

2 (4) assist workers with obtaining education, skills  
3 training, and labor market information to enhance their  
4 employability, earnings, and standard of living.

5 Sec. 490D.002. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

6 (1) "Commission" means the Texas Workforce  
7 Commission.

8 (2) "Development fund" means the Texas green job  
9 skills development fund.

10 (3) "Green job" means a job in the field of renewable  
11 energy or energy efficiency, including a job relating to:

12 (A) energy-efficient building, construction, and  
13 retrofitting;

14 (B) renewable energy, including biomass,  
15 hydroelectric, geothermal, and ocean energy, and wind and solar  
16 power;

17 (C) research and development or manufacturing of  
18 advanced battery or energy storage technologies;

19 (D) biofuels from non-feed food stocks;

20 (E) techniques to reduce, reuse, or recycle  
21 waste;

22 (F) techniques to recycle products and convert  
23 used materials into new products;

24 (G) energy efficiency assessments;

25 (H) manufacturing of sustainable products using  
26 sustainable processes and materials; and

27 (I) water conservation and water efficiency.

1           (4) "Recycle" means the process of extracting  
2 resources or value from waste by recovering or reusing the  
3 material, including the collection and reuse of everyday waste  
4 materials.

5           [Sections 490D.003-490D.020 reserved for expansion]

6           SUBCHAPTER B. GREEN JOB SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FUND

7           Sec. 490D.021. TEXAS GREEN JOB SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FUND.

8           (a) The Texas green job skills development fund is an account in  
9 the general revenue fund. The account is composed of:

10           (1) legislative appropriations;

11           (2) money received from the Texas enterprise fund  
12 under Section 481.078;

13           (3) gifts, grants, donations, and matching funds  
14 received under Subsection (b); and

15           (4) other money required by law to be deposited in the  
16 account.

17           (b) The commission may solicit and accept gifts, grants,  
18 and donations of money from the federal government, local  
19 governments, private corporations, or other persons to be used for  
20 the purposes of this subchapter.

21           (c) Income from money in the account shall be credited to  
22 the account.

23           (d) Money in the development fund may be used only for the  
24 purposes of this chapter.

25           [Sections 490D.022-490D.030 reserved for expansion]

26           SUBCHAPTER C. GREEN JOB SKILLS GRANT PROGRAM

27           Sec. 490D.031. ESTABLISHMENT OF GREEN JOB SKILLS GRANT

1 PROGRAM. The commission shall establish a green job skills grant  
2 program, funded by the development fund under Section 490D.021,  
3 through which the commission may award grants for the  
4 implementation, expansion, and operation of green job skills  
5 training programs.

6 Sec. 490D.032. GRANT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS. (a) A training  
7 program funded through a grant awarded under this subchapter must:

8 (1) be hosted by a regional partnership that presents  
9 a plan to implement training programs that lead trainees to  
10 economic self-sufficiency and career pathways and includes at  
11 least:

12 (A) one university, college, technical school,  
13 or other nonprofit workforce training provider;

14 (B) one chamber of commerce, local workforce  
15 agency, local employer, or other public or private participating  
16 entity;

17 (C) one economic development authority; and

18 (D) one community or faith-based nonprofit  
19 organization that works with one or more targeted populations;

20 (2) assist an eligible individual in obtaining  
21 education, skills training, and labor market information to enhance  
22 the individual's employability in green industries; and

23 (3) assist in the development of a highly skilled and  
24 productive workforce in green industries.

25 (b) A training program awarded a grant under this subchapter  
26 shall target a population of eligible individuals for training that  
27 includes:

1           (1) workers in high-demand green industries who are in  
2 or preparing for high-wage occupations;

3           (2) workers in declining industries who may be  
4 retrained for high-wage occupations in a high-demand green  
5 industry;

6           (3) agriculture, timber, or energy sector workers who  
7 may be retrained for high-wage occupations in a high-demand green  
8 industry;

9           (4) veterans or past or present members of the armed  
10 forces of the United States, including the state military forces,  
11 or a reserve component of the armed forces or the national guard;

12           (5) unemployed workers;

13           (6) low-income workers, unemployed youth and adults,  
14 individuals who did not complete high school, or other underserved  
15 sectors of the workforce in high poverty areas; or

16           (7) individuals otherwise determined by the  
17 commission to be disadvantaged and in need of training to obtain  
18 employment.

19           (c) A training program may receive funding under this  
20 chapter for a period not to exceed three years.

21           (d) A training program may use grant funds for support  
22 services, including basic skills, literacy, GED, English as a  
23 second language, and job readiness training, career guidance, and  
24 referral services.

25           (e) A percentage of the grant, to be determined by the  
26 commission, must be devoted to administrative costs, costs related  
27 to hiring instructors and purchasing equipment, and tuition

1 assistance.

2 Sec. 490D.033. APPLICATION. (a) A regional partnership,  
3 as described by Section 490D.032, may apply for a grant under this  
4 subchapter in the manner prescribed by the commission.

5 (b) The grant application must require the applicant to  
6 provide to the commission the applicant's plan to continue to  
7 operate the training program after the grant expires.

8 Sec. 490D.034. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS IN AWARDING  
9 GRANTS. (a) In addition to the factors described by Sections  
10 490D.032 and 490D.033, in determining whether to award a grant to an  
11 applicant under this subchapter, the commission shall give  
12 preference to a training program that:

13 (1) provides certification and a career advancement  
14 mechanism to a worker who receives green job skills training under  
15 the program; and

16 (2) leverages additional public and private resources  
17 to fund the program, including cash or in-kind matches.

18 (b) Grants shall be awarded in a manner that ensures  
19 geographic diversity.

20 Sec. 490D.035. RESERVATION FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS. Twenty  
21 percent of the funds available for grant programs under this  
22 chapter must be reserved for job skills training programs that  
23 serve the unemployed and individuals whose incomes are at or below  
24 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

25 Sec. 490D.036. REPORT. (a) Not later than the 30th day  
26 after the date funding for a grant under this chapter ends, the  
27 grant recipient shall submit a report to the commission that

1 contains the following information:

2 (1) the number of participants who entered the  
3 program;

4 (2) the demographics of the participants, including  
5 race, gender, age, and significant barriers to education such as  
6 limited English proficiency, a criminal record, or a physical or  
7 mental disability;

8 (3) services received by participants, including  
9 training, education, and support services;

10 (4) the amount of program spending per participant;

11 (5) program completion rates;

12 (6) factors determined to interfere significantly  
13 with program participation or completion;

14 (7) the average wage at placement, including benefits,  
15 and the rate of average wage increases after one year; and

16 (8) any post-employment support services provided.

17 (b) Not later than October 1 of each even-numbered year, the  
18 commission shall submit a report to the governor, the lieutenant  
19 governor, and the speaker of the house of representatives that  
20 includes a summary of all information submitted under Subsection  
21 (a).

22 Sec. 490D.037. STANDARDS. The commission by rule shall  
23 adopt standards for a green job skills training program awarded a  
24 grant under this subchapter.

25 SECTION 3. The Texas Workforce Commission shall adopt rules  
26 for the program under Subchapter C, Chapter 490D, Government Code,  
27 as added by this Act, not later than March 1, 2010.

1           SECTION 4. Implementation of the program under Subchapter  
2 C, Chapter 490D, Government Code, as added by this Act, is  
3 contingent on appropriation of funding by the legislature.

4           SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.